

REHOVOTH · ISRAEL

רחובות · ישראל

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

לשכת הנשיא

August 4, 1968

Prof. Joshua Lederberg,  
Dept. of Genetics,  
Stanford University Medical School,  
Palo Alto, Calif.,  
U. S. A.

Dear Joshua,

Some months ago, to be precise on April 2nd, Dewey Stone informed you that the next meeting of the Board of Governors would take place in Rehovot on December 4th and 5th. In the normal course of events I would consider it unnecessary to send you an additional letter on this subject, but this next meeting will deal with such extremely important matters that I feel I must ask you to make an extraordinary effort to be present at it. In many respects the entire future, growth and development of the Weizmann Institute, will depend on the decisions arrived at in those two days.

To give you some indication of our agenda, quite apart from the routine concerns of our Board meetings, we will have to deal in depth with the following:

1. The Succession to the Presidency

(I have informed both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Board that under no circumstances will I continue to serve as President of the Weizmann Institute of Science after 1969. It has been suggested that a committee made up of three to five members be appointed by the Board to look for a successor, and it has further been suggested that once this successor has been located and approved of, he be requested to take office concurrent with my own term of office: In other words, before I actually retire.)

2. The Appointment of a new Scientific Director

(As you know, Prof. de-Shalit, on July 3, gave notice of his intention to retire from this office in order to devote himself on a full time basis both to scientific research, and even more importantly, to the creation of a Department of Scientific Education which he has been conducting informally at the Institute for a number of years. It is being financed by the U.N. and the Ministry of Education.)

3. The 25th Anniversary

(The Board of Governors Meeting will take place on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Weizmann Institute. We are now in the midst of preparing several meaningful and important programs which will mark this milestone. The anniversary year will begin in April 1969 and will incorporate our celebrations of the 35th anniversary of the Daniel Sieff Institute and the 80th birthday of Lord Sieff. The program, we hope, will be multi-faceted and will include the most earnest efforts to establish a significant Endowment Fund.

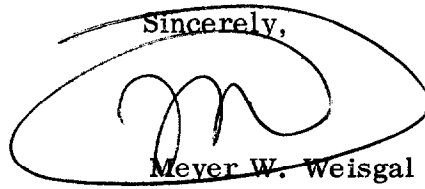
4. The policies governing the retirement pensions, and housing of the scientific and other staff will have to be formulated and prepared for implementation. For the past few months a committee headed by Dr. Landau and Mr. Assia has been working on a definitive plan which would solve all of these problems. I should like to call to your attention the fact that these problems are no longer theoretical - they must be solved in the very near future, and Institute policy concerning them must be made by the Board of Governors.

All this, in addition to our routine business, which includes Adoption of Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account; Appointment of Auditors; Appointment of New Members of the Association and the Executive Council; Election of a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman; etc.

In addition to all this, a number of major functions are scheduled to precede the Board of Governors meeting, including the visit to the Weizmann Institute of Science of the former Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson, at the end of November. It would be most valuable for the Institute, and I think, most worthwhile for you, if you could possibly manage to be here for a few days before the Board meeting starts.

One warning: An unprecedented flux of tourists to Israel makes it essential for us to have your answer as soon as possible so that we can make all the necessary hotel reservations, etc. for you in good time. I therefore urge you to notify Mrs. Sela, the Secretary of our Governing bodies, as soon as you can as to when you expect to arrive in Israel, and whether you would like us to book rooms for you.

I look forward very much to seeing you here again.

Sincerely,  
  
Meyer W. Weisgal  
President